

A Retrieved Reformation

O' Henry



By O. Henry

“A Retrieved Reformation” is the story of:

A) A person who changes his life

B) A safecracker and his friendship with a detective

C) A person who makes shoes

D) A person who always gets a tough break

The mood of “A Retrieved Reformation” varies throughout the story, but the ending gives us a feeling of:

A)Despair– Jimmy’s life changed for the worse

B)Humor– Jimmy can laugh at everything he has gone through.

C)Hope: Jimmy now has options to do whatever he chooses in life.

D)Anger– Jimmy feels rage about having to live the new life he created.

Jimmy Valentine and O. Henry have what in common?

A) Both are from New York, rob banks, and got married.

B) Both marry girls named Annabel, changed their name, and are shoe salesmen.

C) Both spent time in prison, have knowledge about banks, and changed their name.

D) Both marry girls named Annabel, are from New York, and went to prison.

Which of these supports the surprise ending in the story?

A) Jimmy sells his tools to his old pal.

B) Ben Price tracks down Jimmy.

C) Mr. Adams shows Jimmy his new vault.

D) Annabel puts her trust in Jimmy.

How does Ben price know that Jimmy is back in the safecracking business?

A) Each safe has Jimmy's name left on it.

B) Jimmy called Ben with the news.

C) The style of cracking into the safes matched Jimmy's style.

D) Ben caught Jimmy cracking safes.

Jimmy ultimately becomes Ralph Spencer so that he can:

A) Get a job at a bank.

B) Hide his real identity as he checked out the bank in Elmore.

C) So he could hide from Ben Price.

D) So he can start a new life with Annabel.

Ben Price calls Jimmy “Mr. Spencer” because Ben:

A) is arresting Jimmy

B) no longer wants to arrest Jimmy

C) is making a joke

D) doesn't recognize Jimmy

The author uses an allusion when Jimmy is described by:

A. Jimmy as a salesman

B. The author as Ralph Spencer

C. The author as not too intelligent

D. The warden as an innocent victim

The ultimate proof of Jimmy Valentine's honesty is that he:

A. Runs a new successful business

B. Wants to give away his tools

C. Risks being discovered as Jimmy Valentine to save Agatha

D. Willingly offers to go with Ben Price after the rescue

Which of the following makes the ending a surprise ending?

- A. Ben Price watches Jimmy open the vault.
- B. Ben Price shows up unobtrusively in Elmore.
- C. Jimmy is not formally accused of the crimes he has committed since his release from prison.
- D. Jimmy turns himself over to Ben Price.

What is the character type(s) of Jimmy Valentine?

A. round/static

B. round/dynamic

C. flat/static

D. flat/dynamic

What is the character type(s) of Ralph Spencer ?

A. Round/static

B. Dynamic

C. Flat

D. Flat/static

What is the character type(s) of Ben Price?

A. Round

B. Static

C. round

D. flat

What is the character type(s) of Annabel Adams?

A. round

B. flat

C. dynamic

D. Round/dynamic

How well do you know your vocabulary words from the story?

Let's find out! Read each sentence using a **vocabulary word** from the story. Use context clues and prior knowledge to quiz yourself on their definitions.
(The correct answer will be revealed after each slide.)

assiduously = carefully and busily
(adv)

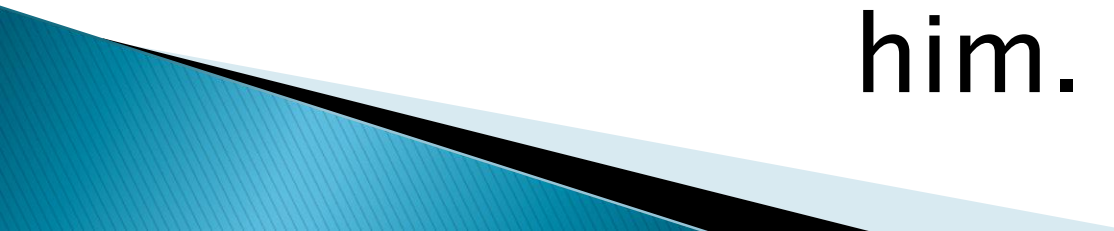
*A guard came to the prison shoe-shop where Jimmy Valentine was **assiduously** stitching uppers.

*uppers= part of the shoe above the sole



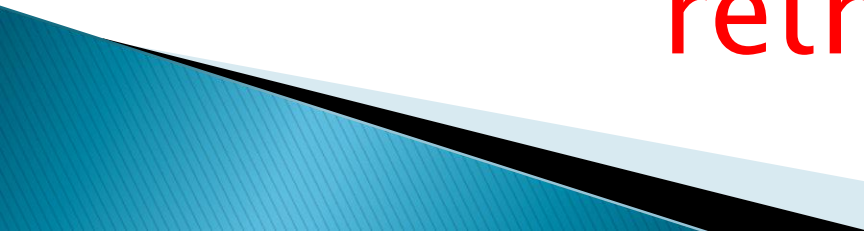
Eminent = well known; of high
(adj) achievement

*There on the floor was still Ben Price's collar-button that had been torn from that **eminent** detective's shirt-band when they had overpowered Jimmy to arrest him.



Retribution = A punishment
(*noun*) deserved for wrong
doing

*Long jumps, quick getaways,
no confederates, and a taste for
good society– there ways had
helped Mr. Valentine to become
noted as a successful dodger of
retribution.



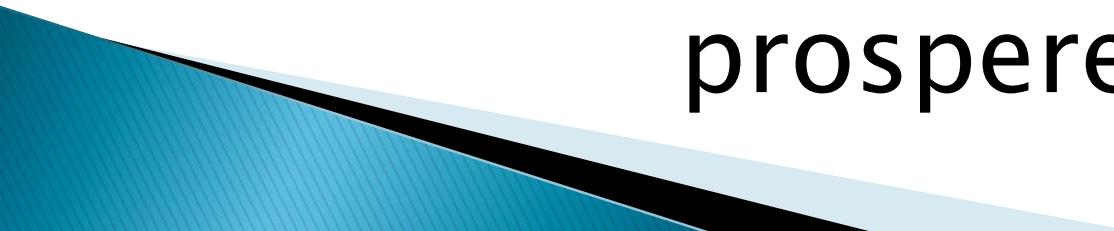
Unobtrusively = without calling
(adv) attention to
oneself

*Ben Price jogged
unobtrusively into Elmore in
a livery buggy.




Alterative = causing a change
(*adj*)

*Mr. Ralph Spencer, the phoenix
that arose from Jimmy
Valentine's ashes– ashes left by
the flame of an **alterative** attack
of love– remained in Elmore and
prospered.



Specious = seeming to be true
(*adj*) without really being
so


When Jimmy arrived in
Elmore, he had the
specious appearance of an
athletic young senior just
home from college.



Guile = craftiness

(noun)

“Isn’t that young lady
Miss Polly Simpson?”
asked Jimmy with
specious guile.



Study the Following Materials:

(Click on each one to be directed to another copy, if you need it!)

- 1) [Study Guide and Story Map](#)
 - 2) Allusion [Worksheet with notes](#) & [PowerPoint](#)
 - 3) [O. Henry & Jimmy Valentine Venn Diagram](#)
 - 4) [Short Answer Response Practice Questions](#)
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